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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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SUBJECT: "Tomorrow's Package"...Information from economists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Shopping for food in Grandma's day took time. The grocer had to weigh up or count out nearly everything Grandma bought...from crackers and brown sugar to spices and tea.

Today...most food we buy is already measured and done up in a package. We are accustomed to buying food in containers that are sanitary, convenient and attractive. The container may be a cardboard box...a glass jar...or tin can. Or it may be a wooden basket...a cloth bag...or a metal drum. Whatever its form, the container protects the food from dirt and spoilage. And it provides a convenient way to keep the food...whether it be on the grocer's shelves and in your pantry at home.

There's good prospect - say economists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture - that you'll soon be seeing new types of food containers at the corner grocery store. These are containers developed and used during the war. Some of them...like the fiberboard crate...came into being as the result of wartime shortages. Others...such as waterproof lacquers and plastic films...are the results of new discoveries.

What improvements may you expect in food containers of the future?

Well...the economists say you are likely to see more food products done up in packages. Fresh fruits and vegetables, for example. It's already being done to some extent. You may buy oranges in mesh bags now. Tomatoes are marketed in small cardboard boxes with transparent plastic windows. Mushrooms are sold in the same type container. When fresh produce is packed in such containers at the farm...it's protected from cuts and bruises during shipping and storage. The day may come when

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